

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [technical manual](#).

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

Adult Criminal Justice

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Odds of a positive net present value
Offender Re-entry Community Safety Program (dangerously mentally ill offenders)	Apr. 2012	\$57,765	\$19,087	\$38,677	(\$32,924)	\$24,840	\$1.76	93 %
Electronic monitoring (radio frequency or global positioning systems)	Apr. 2012	\$23,085	\$5,617	\$17,468	\$1,093	\$24,178	n/a	100 %
Therapeutic communities for offenders with co-occurring disorders	Dec. 2012	\$26,842	\$7,321	\$19,520	(\$3,628)	\$23,213	\$7.41	99 %
Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for drug offenders)	Apr. 2012	\$23,441	\$6,068	\$17,373	(\$1,574)	\$21,867	\$14.92	99 %
Correctional education (basic or post-secondary) in prison	Apr. 2012	\$22,539	\$5,875	\$16,664	(\$1,149)	\$21,390	\$19.65	100 %
Vocational education in prison	Apr. 2012	\$21,131	\$5,585	\$15,546	(\$1,599)	\$19,531	\$13.23	100 %
Outpatient/non-intensive drug treatment (incarceration)	Dec. 2012	\$18,452	\$4,797	\$13,655	(\$589)	\$17,863	\$31.40	100 %
Mental health courts	Apr. 2012	\$20,211	\$5,522	\$14,689	(\$2,995)	\$17,217	\$6.76	100 %
Inpatient/intensive outpatient drug treatment (incarceration)	Dec. 2012	\$17,900	\$4,748	\$13,152	(\$1,208)	\$16,692	\$14.85	100 %
Case management: swift & certain/graduated sanctions for substance abusing offenders	Dec. 2012	\$19,385	\$5,430	\$13,955	(\$4,834)	\$14,551	\$4.02	97 %
Risk Need & Responsivity supervision (for high and moderate risk offenders)	Dec. 2013	\$18,073	\$5,181	\$12,892	(\$4,849)	\$13,224	\$3.73	100 %
Sex Offender treatment in the community	Dec. 2013	\$13,178	\$2,764	\$10,415	(\$1,614)	\$11,564	\$8.18	87 %
Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for property offenders)	Dec. 2012	\$11,775	\$3,126	\$8,649	(\$1,572)	\$10,203	\$7.51	71 %
Cognitive behavioral treatment (for high and moderate risk offenders)	Apr. 2012	\$10,364	\$2,677	\$7,687	(\$419)	\$9,945	\$24.76	99 %
Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent offenders (community)	Dec. 2012	\$11,494	\$3,171	\$8,323	(\$2,463)	\$9,031	\$4.67	99 %
Work release	Apr. 2012	\$7,550	\$2,012	\$5,538	(\$675)	\$6,875	\$11.20	96 %
Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent offenders (incarceration)	Dec. 2012	\$10,794	\$3,323	\$7,471	(\$4,359)	\$6,435	\$2.48	98 %
Employment training/job assistance in the community	Apr. 2012	\$5,949	\$1,502	\$4,447	(\$138)	\$5,811	\$43.35	99 %
Outpatient/non-intensive drug treatment (community)	Dec. 2012	\$6,390	\$1,669	\$4,721	(\$589)	\$5,802	\$10.87	92 %
Correctional industries in prison	Apr. 2012	\$6,859	\$1,931	\$4,929	(\$1,447)	\$5,412	\$4.75	98 %
Sex Offender treatment during incarceration	Dec. 2013	\$10,378	\$2,570	\$7,808	(\$5,063)	\$5,315	\$2.05	82 %
Intensive supervision (surveillance & treatment)	Apr. 2012	\$12,619	\$4,150	\$8,469	(\$8,031)	\$4,588	\$1.57	78 %
Inpatient/intensive outpatient drug treatment (community)	Dec. 2012	\$3,746	\$1,050	\$2,696	(\$945)	\$2,801	\$3.97	79 %
Drug courts	Apr. 2012	\$5,386	\$1,940	\$3,446	(\$4,271)	\$1,115	\$1.26	85 %
Case management: not swift and certain for substance abusing offenders	Dec. 2012	\$4,059	\$1,614	\$2,446	(\$4,841)	(\$781)	\$0.84	45 %
Intensive supervision (surveillance only)	Apr. 2012	(\$2,494)	(\$93)	(\$2,401)	(\$4,220)	(\$6,714)	(\$0.59)	10 %
Domestic violence perpetrator treatment	Apr. 2012	(\$6,137)	(\$1,370)	(\$4,767)	(\$1,390)	(\$7,527)	(\$4.61)	19 %
Prison								
For lower risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Oct. 2013	(\$1,301)	(\$517)	(\$783)	\$5,642	\$4,341	n/a	98 %

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For moderate risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Oct. 2013	(\$5,433)	(\$1,044)	(\$4,389)	\$5,633	\$200	n/a	52 %
For high risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Oct. 2013	(\$10,213)	(\$1,681)	(\$8,533)	\$5,641	(\$4,573)	n/a	17 %
Police (results per-officer)								
Deploy one additional police officer with hot spots strategies	Oct. 2013	\$648,535	\$70,018	\$578,517	(\$92,597)	\$555,938	\$7.05	100 %
Deploy one additional police officer with statewide average practices	Oct. 2013	\$573,700	\$61,637	\$512,063	(\$88,310)	\$485,390	\$6.54	100 %

Other Adult Criminal Justice topics reviewed; benefit-cost results not yet available:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
Driving Under the Influence (DUI) court	Feb. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Ignition interlock devices for alcohol-related offenses	Mar. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Adult boot camps	Oct. 2006	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.
Jail diversion for mentally ill offenders	Oct. 2006	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.
Life skills education programs	Oct. 2006	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.
Restorative justice for lower-risk offenders	Oct. 2006	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.
Sex offender community notification and registration	Jun. 2009	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

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